

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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*** PUBLIC NOTICE ***

Workers at Wabash County's North Manchester Foundry receive federal TAA certification

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Wabash County's North Manchester Foundry are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Located in North Manchester, the foundry employed 102 workers, producing metal castings and supplies component parts for metal bar products. The facility permanently closed December 12, 2003.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. The United Steelworkers of America local #626 filed a petition on behalf of the workers on March 15, 2004.

The USDOL investigation found the company's loss of business with a manufacturer whose workers had been certified for TAA benefits caused declines in employment and production at North Manchester Foundry. Consequently, foundry workers qualified for benefits as secondarily affected workers and the findings were certified on April 6, 2004. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after February 23, 2003 through the two years from the date of certification is eligible for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Patrice Kimani, 765-459-0571 ext.3042 at the Kokomo WorkOne office or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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